



Contact: Nancy Benecki, Public Information Officer
(201) 460-4662 nancy.benecki@njmeadowlands.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 1, 2006

NJMC Offers Holiday Gift Ideas For Nature Lovers

LYNDHURST, N.J. – With the holidays fast approaching, now is the perfect time to think about creative gifts for the nature lovers on your list. The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission and the Meadowlands Environment Center offer opportunities to purchase unique gift ideas that celebrate the Meadowlands.

Yearly memberships can be purchased for the Meadowlands Environment Center, a New Jersey Meadowlands Commission facility operated by Ramapo College of New Jersey. In addition, nature-themed gifts from candles to T-shirts, hats, toys and more can be found in the Tideland Treasures Gift Shop located in the MEC. Gift certificates for pontoon boat tours are also available.

There are four MEC membership categories to choose from. All are yearly memberships, starting with the Little Blue Heron membership at a cost of \$25 per individual. This includes a membership card, a schedule of events with member-only prices, and 10 percent off in the Tideland Treasures Gift Shop. The Snowy Egret membership, at a cost of \$75, adds two passes for a pontoon boat tour.

The Great Egret membership, at \$125 for an individual or business, includes a membership card, schedule of events with member-only prices, 10 percent off in the Tideland Treasures Gift Shop and two passes for a pontoon boat tour. In addition, it commemorates your membership with an inscription of your name and year of membership on the Membership Plaque in the Meadowlands Environment Center.

The Great Blue Heron membership includes all of the Great Egret perks but gives members four passes for a pontoon boat tour and advanced notification, registration and discounts on events and summer camps. The cost is \$250 for a family.

For those looking to explore the Hackensack River, a New Jersey Meadowlands Commission pontoon boat ride is the perfect gift. A \$15 gift certificate will provide a two-hour tour of the Hackensack River and Meadowlands District. Tours run from May through September and are conducted by trained captains and hosted by narrators well versed in the history and environment of the Meadowlands District. Pontoon boat tours are open to adults and children ages 10 and older. The perfect companion gift to a boat

tour is a copy of the “Birding and Wildlife Trails: Meadowlands and More,” guide, which is free and available in English and Spanish. Call 1-888-NJM-BIRD to obtain a copy.

To purchase a Meadowlands Environment Center membership, contact Special Programs Coordinator Michelle Spataro at (201) 777-2413. For more information about the MEC or the Tidelands Treasures Gift Shop, call (201) 460-8300. To purchase a pontoon boat tour certificate, contact NJMC Outreach Specialist Gabrielle Bennett-Meany at (201) 460-4640.

#####